

Remarks

Applicant has canceled claims 1-4, 9-12 and 15-16, and amended claims 5-7, 13 and 17. Only claims 5-8, 13-14 and 17 remain. All remaining claims were rejected as obvious on Abe (6,692,276) in view of Ooya (2003/0064627) and Nogami (6,719,577).

Enclosed is a certified copy of French application no. 0103228 filed March 9, 2001. A claim for priority based on the French application was made in the specification and in the declaration sent to the Patent Office on January 22, 2004. The March 9, 2001 priority date proceeds the priority dates of Ooya (Sept. 28, 2001) and Nogami (Sept. 7, 2001), so the only remaining reference is Abe.

Claim 5, which has been converted to an independent claim, describes the insulative support (e.g. 52 in Fig. 4) having upstanding boxes (162) with rearwardly-opening slots (164, Fig. 12) that receive the forward free ends (102) of the contacts. This is especially useful for cards (Fig. 6) with recesses at their front ends in which the contact pads lie. Abe shows in his Fig. 2 that he does not have such upstanding boxes.

Claim 6 describes a cover of the type that has inward projections (e.g. 124, 126 in Fig. 17) at the bottom of the cover side walls (120, 122) to slide rearward onto the insulative support (52, Fig. 4). The insulative support has notches (127, 129), and the cover has resilient projections (121, 123 in Fig. 1) that each snaps into one of the notches when the cover is slid rearward onto the insulative support. This locks the cover onto the support.

Abe shows his cover with short lower flanges in his Fig. 2 but not in his Fig. 3. He does not show cover projections that snap into support recesses to lock his cover in place. His Fig. 3 shows diagonal holes in his lower housing and his Fig. 2 shows aligned holes in his lower housing and cover, which suggests fasteners to hold his housing parts together.

Claim 7, which depends from claim 6, describes an empty cutout (131, Fig. 4) in the support front wall, for receiving a tool to pry up the cover front end. Abe's

Fig. 4 shows a cutout that is filled with a spring 60.

Claim 8, which depends from claim 6 describes a stop (e.g. 136 in Fig. 4) which is positioned to receive one of the card grooves (at Pi in Fig. 6). The stop prevents damage to the contact if the SD card is inserted upside-down until it hits the polarizing face (56). Abe does not show this.

Claim 13 is similar to claim 8 in describing a stop (e.g. 136 in Fig. 4) that is received in an SD card groove. As mentioned above, Abe does not show this, so applicant believes that claim 13 and dependent claim 14 should be allowed.

Claim 17, which has been converted into an independent claim, describes a connector with a sheet metal cover having a pair of upstanding tabs (e.g. 180', 182' in Fig. 26) for guiding a second type of card into position. Abe does not show this.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration of the application is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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